GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:384
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Pollution in Cities
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of deaths due to environmental pollution and number of polluted cities have increased recently in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has undertaken any survey to identify the most polluted cities in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Government has initiated any action plan to tackle the impact of pollution in cities and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute and IIT, Kanpur is monitoring the ambient air quality across the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The NAMP network presently comprises 621 operating monitoring stations located in 262 cities/towns in 29 states and 5 union territories. CPCB was monitoring ambient air quality in 201 cities/towns in the year 2011 and 257 cities/towns in 2015. The analysis of annual average concentration of ambient air quality in 2011 revealed that 162 cities exceeded the standard of 60 Âµg/m3 with respect to PM10 and 25 cities exceeded the standard of 40 Âµg/m3 with respect to NO2 whereas the data of 2015 reveals that 180 cities exceeded the standard of with respect to PM10 and 19 cities exceeded the standard with respect to NO2. There are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlationship between death and environmental pollution. Air Pollution could be one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health effects of air pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity etc. of the individuals.

(d) The major steps being taken by the Government to control pollution inter alia include the following:-
(i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;
(ii) Formulation of environmental regulations / statutes;
(iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
(iv) Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blend etc.;
(v) Promotion of cleaner production processes.
(vi) Launching of National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015;
(vii) Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
(viii) Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;
(ix) Taxing polluting vehicles and incentivizing hybrid and electric vehicles;
(x) Comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules including Municipal Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical Waste and Electronic Waste notified;
(xi) Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules;
(xii) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;
(xiii) Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
(xiv) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries;
(xv) Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR;
(xvi) Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
(xvii) Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.
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